

Example 9th Grade Responses for DWA (Directed Writing Assessment)

Using Anchor Papers

These examples of student responses to the 2003 Direct Writing Assessment prompt and the accompanying annotations were used as training materials for scorers. It would be helpful to have available a copy of the Six Traits Scoring rubric for reference as you read these student papers and annotations.

The student authors of these papers are not identifiable in any way. Names of towns, people, schools, etc. have been changed to protect the identities of the writers.

Teachers may use these examples and annotations in the classroom as instructional tools.

Prompt

Athletic teams are typically all female or all male. Do you think students should be allowed to try out for any team regardless of their gender?

Write an article for your school newsletter explaining why you think students should or should not be allowed to try out for any team regardless of whether they are female or male.

Student Response 1

Athletic Teams
03UT09WR_A-1

Athletic team's should consist of male and female teams.
I think that everybody should play sports,
what ever there sex. My reason's support
people that want to play, play. female should play
with female if they want to, and male should
play with male if they choose to.

18037

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 1**

Although this response gives some indication of a main idea (Athletic team's should consist of male and female teams), the writer's opinion is not clearly evident. Thus, the reader is forced to make inferences based on very sketchy details (I think that everybody should play sports, what ever there sex. My reason's support people that want to play, play).

Organization**Score Point: 1**

While this response has a weak introduction (Athletic team's should consist of male and female teams), there is no clear conclusion. Noticeable gaps in information confuse the reader (My reason's support people that want to play, play. female should play with female if they want to, and male should play with male if they chouse to). The writing lacks direction.

Voice**Score Point: 1**

In this limited response, the writer seems to speak in a monotone that flattens all potential highs or lows of the message (My reason's support people that want to play, play. female should play with female if they want to, and male should play with male if they chouse to). As a result, the writing is stiff and mechanical.

Word Choice**Score Point: 1**

In this limited sample of writing, the language is vague and redundant (I think that everybody should play sports... female should play with female if they want to, and male should play with male if they chouse to), allowing only the most general sort of message to come through.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 2**

In this limited response, word patterns are usually repetitive (Athletic team's should consist of... everybody should play sports... female should play with male if they want to, and male should play with male if they chouse to), demonstrating a limited familiarity with sentence patterns. Thus, the text does not generate expressive oral reading.

Conventions**Score Point: 2**

This sample of writing demonstrates limited skill in the use of conventions. Although end-of-sentence punctuation is present, apostrophes are used incorrectly (team's, reason's) and errors occur in capitalization (my, female). Spelling errors are also present (everybody, there for their, chouse).

Student Response 2

Athletic Teams
03UT09WR_A-2

I think that if the males can try out for volleyball the females can try out for football. But the females will start coming playing because they are the biggest winners on the face of earth and then the males will start complaining. About the volleyball games they will say these games are lame we would rather play football.



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

06927

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 1**

In this response there is some indication that the student has chosen a position (I think that if the males can try out for vallyball the females can try out for football). Information is very limited and sometimes unclear (About the vally Ball Games they will say these games are dome we woold Rather Play football), forcing the reader to make inferences.

Organization**Score Point: 2**

This response provides a weak introduction (I think that if the males can try out for vallyball the females can try out for football) and limited ideas (But the Females will start come planying becaus they are the biggest winners on the face of erther and then the males will Start complane). Thus, the response demonstrates only a weak overall organization.

Voice**Score Point: 2**

The writer attempts involvement with the topic (I think that if the males can try out for vallyball the females can try out for football), but seems unaware of the audience. The writer uses language that is unconvincing (About the vallyBall Games they will say these games are dome we woold Rather Play football), leaving the reader with little sense of the writer behind the words.

Word Choice**Score Point: 2**

The language in this response is superficial and nonspecific (...they are the biggest winners on the face of the erther and then the males will start complane. About the vally Ball Games they will say these games are dome). Verbs are repetitive and dull (females will start... males will start... they will say).

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 2**

In this limited sample of writing, awkward sentence construction disrupts the flow of the text (But the Females will Start come Planying becaus they are the biggest winners on the face of erther and then the males will Start complane. About the vally Ball Games they will say these games are dome we woold Rather Play football). Thus, the paper is difficult to read orally.

Conventions**Score Point: 2**

In this response, there is a density of errors that demonstrates limited skill in the use of conventions. There are errors in terminal punctuation (...they will say these games are dome we woold Rather Play football), capitalization (the Females, Rather, Play), and spelling (vallyball, becaus, erther, dome, woold). Therefore, this paper represents the lower end of the two-point range in Conventions.

Athletic Teams
03UT09WR_A.3

Sports

Any body should participate in any Sport that they want to. If you can't play because of your gender, it's called gender discrimination and you can take them to court, and besides that sports, keep you healthy and strong, and they're fun.



08196

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 2**

This limited response has a main idea in the form of the writer's opinion (Any body should participate in any Sport that they want to), but provides limited information through weak development (If you can't play because of your gender, it's called gender discrimination). The writer has made an attempt to define the topic, but support is less than adequate.

Organization**Score Point: 2**

Overall organization is emerging and some signs of development are shown. There is an identifiable introduction (Any body should participate in any Sport that they want to) but no conclusion. Transitions are weak, making the connections between ideas difficult to discern (If you can't play because of your gender, it's called gender discrimination and you can take them to court, and besides that Sports, keep you healthy and Strong, and they're fun). Thus, organization is present but weak.

Voice**Score Point: 2**

The writer attempts involvement with the topic (Any body should participate in any Sport that they want to), but uses language that is unconvincing and remains on a functional level (and besides that Sports, keep you healthy and Strong, and they're fun). The response leaves the reader with little sense of the writer behind the words.

Word Choice**Score Point: 2**

While the writer of this response makes some effort to use the right words to express meaning (it's called gender discrimination and you can take them to court), the language is generally nonspecific (Any body should participate in any Sport that they want to... and besides that Sports, keep you healthy and Strong, and they're fun).

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 2**

In this response, few parts of the text generate expressive oral reading (If you can't play because of your gender, it's called gender discrimination and you can take them to court, and besides that Sports, keep you healthy and Strong, and they're fun). Further, this response is so minimal that it demonstrates only limited familiarity with sentence patterns.

Conventions**Score Point: 2**

While this response has some errors (Sport, Any body), end-of-sentence punctuation, spelling, and usage are generally correct. However, the response is so minimal that the writer is able to demonstrate only limited skill in using conventions.

Student Response 4

PE Requirements
03UT09WR_A-4

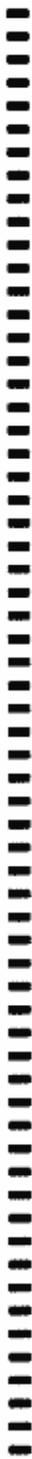
As we all know that many states require Physical Education. Physical Education helps all students to get credit for graduation and also keeps them from getting heart disease and over weight.

There should be a Physical Education class begging at grades 3-12, all because some kids start to create a eating disorder that they can't control. With a Physical Education starting that young may prevent all students eating habits decrease laziness and also build up strength and self respect for them selves to stop all eating habits and have a positive attitude all day long.



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

05406



Ideas and Content**Score Point: 2**

The response has a main idea but lacks focus. The writer states an opinion, the main idea (There should be a physical Education class begging at grades 3-12), but provides only weak and repetitive supporting reasons that are not convincing (some kids start to create a eating disorder... may prevent all students eating habits... also build up strength and self respect for them selves to stop all eating habits). The writer fails to acknowledge other opinions on the subject. Thus, while the writer made an attempt to define the topic, support is less than adequate to develop the main idea.

Organization**Score Point: 2**

The response exhibits a weak overall structure. There is a recognizable introduction (As we all know that many states require Physical Education), that is not clearly connected to the main idea. Details provide some signs of development (some kids start to create a eating disorder that they can't control... starting that young may prevent all students eating habits, decrease lazyness, and also build up strength and self respect...). Some weaker transitions are used to connect ideas (and also keeps them from getting heart diease... all beacuse some kids start to create... With a Physical Education starting that young...). However, the response is limited and repetitive connections between ideas are often difficult to discern.

Voice**Score Point: 2**

The writer attempts involvement with the topic (There should be a Physical Education class). However, due to the repetitive nature of the response, the language is insubstantial and unconvincing (keeps them from getting heart diease and over weight... beacuse some kids start to create a eating disorder... may prevent all students eating habits... to stop all eating habits...).

Word Choice**Score Point: 2**

In this limited response, the writer makes some effort to use the right words to express meaning. However, the inclusion of repetitive, abstract or confused phrases inhibits clarity (...some kids start to create a eating disorder... may prevent all students eating habits... also build up strength and self respect for them selves to stop all eating habits...).

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 2**

In this response, the flow of the text is often disrupted by fragments and nonstandard English syntax (As we all know that many states require Physical Education... With a Physical Education starting that young may prevent all students eating habits, decrease lazyness, and also build up strength and self respect for them selves to stop all eating habits and have a positive attude all day long). Thus, the paper is generally difficult to read orally.

Conventions**Score Point: 2**

Although this limited response uses terminal punctuation, uses capitals for the first words in sentences, and does paragraph, there is a density of errors that demonstrates limited skill in the use of conventions. There are spelling errors (begging instead of beginning, lazyness, beacuse, them selves, gradution, attude), and several other errors (a eating disorder, students eating habits, over weight).

Student Response 5

PE Requirements
03UT09WR_A-5

I think that students should not be required to take a physical education course every year. I think the course should be optional.

Some students may not like physical activity and won't want to participate in the course, others may go to early college when they are juniors and seniors and might not be able to fit the course in with their school schedule. The third group of people myself included are on athletic teams and are already physically fit.

As you can see this is why the physical education courses should be optional for all students because there are many situations in which they might not be able to or want to take physical education every year of their schooling.



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

06628

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 2**

In this response the writer states his/her opinion, the main idea (I think that students should not be required to take a physical education course every year). Although the student provides reasons for his/her opinion, support is less than adequate to develop the main idea fully (Some students may not like physical activity and wont want to participate in the course, Others may go to early college when they are juniors and seniors and might not be able to fit the course...).

Organization**Score Point: 3**

This response exhibits an overall structure with a recognizable introduction (I think that students should not be required to take a physical education course every year) and a conclusion (As you can see this is why the physical education courses should be optional for all students...). The writer includes transitions (Some students... Others... The third group of people). Thus, the reader is able to follow what is being said.

Voice**Score Point: 3**

In this response, the writer seems sincere (...physical education courses should be optional for all students because there are many situations in which they might not be able to or want to take physical education every year of their schooling). However, the writing generally communicates in an earnest but fairly routine manner (Some students may not like physical activity and wont want to participate in the course. Others may go to early college when they are juniors and seniors and might not be able to fit the course in with their school schedule). Although the writer seems aware of an audience, there is not strong enough evidence that it is the specified audience (the guidance counselor). Thus, this response fails to achieve a higher score.

Word Choice**Score Point: 3**

Although the language in this response does convey the message, it is quite ordinary and functional (I think that students should not be required to take a physical education course every year. I think the course should be optional). Further, the response contains some redundancies and overused phrases (Some students may... Others may... might not be able to fit... they might not be able to). Thus, while the language communicates, it rarely captures the reader's imagination.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 3**

The writer of this limited response demonstrates good control of some sentences (Others may go to early college when they are juniors and seniors and might not be able to fit the course in with their school schedule). However, the response is limited and provides little opportunity to demonstrate variety in sentence length and structure.

Conventions**Score Point: 3**

In this response, end-of-sentence punctuation is generally correct, though there is an error (Some students may not like physical activity and wont want to participate in the course, Others may go to early college when they are juniors and seniors and might not be able to fit the course in with their school schedule). Internal punctuation is missing altogether. Spelling is correct and usage is generally correct.

Student Response 6

Athletic Teams
03UT09WR_A-6

I think students should not be allowed to try out for any team regardless of gender because both genders play at a very different level. If a girl was on a football team playing with guys she would not be able to compete very well because generally guys are a lot stronger than girls.

Many times girls are vulnerable competing with guys because are usually more aggressive and that would also make things unfair. In some sports such as football girls could be injured in their breasts quite easily.

Other sports such as golf and track, would probably be fair to have both genders competing together because

they are not contact sports. Tennis is also a sport that I think would be fair to a coed sport.

I think the idea of both genders competing together should not be ruled out, but it should be taken into consideration because it might work fairly for some sports.

15458

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

28A

Ideas and Content

Score Point: 3

This response is focused and somewhat persuasive. The writer states his/her opinion, the main idea (I think students should not be allowed to try out for any team regardless of gender because both genders play at a very different level). Elaboration is attempted, but it is limited and often too general (Other sports such as golf and track would probably be fair to have both genders competing together, because they are not contact sports. Tennis is also a sport that I think would be fair as a coed sport).

Organization

Score Point: 3

This response exhibits an overall structure that allows the reader to follow what is being said. There is a recognizable introduction (I think students should not be allowed to try out for any team regardless of gender because both genders play at a very different level...) and conclusion (I think the idea of both genders competing together should not be ruled out, but it should be taken into consideration because it might work fairly for some sports). Transitions sometimes work well. Placement or relevance of detail is occasionally confusing (Many times girls are vulnerable competing with guys because are usually more aggressive and that would also make things unfair. In some sports such as football girls could be injured in their breasts quite easily).

Voice

Score Point: 3

In this response, the writer seems sincere (I think students should not be allowed to try out for any team regardless of gender because both genders play at a very different level. If a girl was on a football team playing with guys she would not be able to compete very well because generally guys are a lot stronger than girls) but not fully involved in the topic (I think the idea of both genders competing together should not be ruled out, but it should be taken into consideration because it might work fairly for some sports). The writing communicates in an earnest but fairly routine manner. Thus, the response seems pleasant but not compelling.

Word Choice

Score Point: 3

The language in this response is quite ordinary and functional, but it does convey the message. While the meaning is clear, some wording lacks precision (If a girl was on a football team playing with guys she would not be able to compete very well because generally guys are a lot stronger than girls). Redundancies are commonly used (she would not be able to compete... Many times girls are vulnerable competing with guys...to have both genders competing together... both genders competing together should not). Consequently, the paper is stuffed with familiar words and phrases.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 3**

In this response, the writer generally shows control of sentences (I think students should not be allowed to try out for any team regardless of gender because both genders play at a very different level...Tennis is also a sport that I think would be fair as a coed sport). However, the writer falls into a pattern of sentence lengths (If a girl was on a football team playing with guys she would not be able to compete very well because generally guys are a lot stronger than girls... I think the idea of both genders competing together should not be ruled out, but it should be taken into consideration because it might work fairly for some sports). Consequently, the sentences tend to be mechanical and lack rhythm.

Conventions**Score Point: 3**

In this response, terminal punctuation is almost always correct (I think the idea of both genders competing together should not be ruled out, but it should be taken into consideration because it might work fairly for some sports). Usage and paragraphing are generally correct. Errors in spelling, while not overwhelming, tend to be distracting (allowed, compete, venerable, Tennis). Thus, the writer shows a reasonable control over a limited range of conventions, but the text is too simple to show real mastery.

Student Response 7

Athletic Teams
03UT09WR_A-7

I think that the teams should remain boys on one and girls on the other. In sports such as football or Basketball you would have to have two locker rooms for each team. The coach would not be able to talk to the whole team in the locker room. The team would have to find a different room to talk about the game.

In basketball practice you would have to have home and away practice jerseys because you can't play shirt's and skins with girls.

Also in basketball there would be more people cut because boys and girls would be trying out so ~~more~~ there would be less room on the team.

In Football since everyone makes the team you would have to have more than one bus

48A

to carry the whole team

In conclusion I think the teams should stay ~~how~~ they are boys on one team, girls on the other.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

08204

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 3**

This response is clear and focused, but the result is not especially persuasive. The writer states his/her opinion (I think that the teams should remain boys on one and Girls on the other) and attempts to move from general observation to specific points (In sports such as Football or Basketball you would have to have two locker rooms for each team. The coach would not be able to talk to the whole team in the lockerroom. The team would have to find a different room to talk about the game). Overall, however, supporting reasons are limited (In basketball practice you would have to have home and away practice jersey's because you can't play shirt's and skins with girls).

Organization**Score Point: 3**

This response exhibits an overall structure that allows the reader to follow what is being said. There is a brief introduction (I think that the teams should remain boys on one and Girls on the other) and a brief, but recognizable, conclusion (In conclusion I think the teams should stay how they are boys on one team, girls on the other). The writer attempts to use transitions. However, ideas sometimes move along too rapidly (Also in basketball there would be more people cut because boy's and girls would be trying out so there would be less room on the team. In Football since everyone makes the team you would have to have more than one bus to carry the whole team).

Voice**Score Point: 3**

In this response, the writer seems sincere (In conclusion I think the teams should stay how they are boys on one team, girls on the other). The writing generally communicates in an earnest but fairly routine manner (In Football since everyone makes the team you would have to have more than one bus to carry the whole team). The result is personable but not compelling.

Word Choice**Score Point: 3**

Although the language in this response does convey the message, it is quite ordinary and functional (In basketball practice you would have to have home and away practice jersey's because you can't play shirt's and skins with girls). Further, some wording lacks precision (Also in basketball there would be more people cut because boy's and girls would be trying out so there would be less room on the team).

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 3**

The writer of this response generally controls sentences (I think that the teams should remain boys on one and Girls on the other). However, the writer generally falls into a pattern of sentence structure and length (In basketball practice you would have to have home and away practice jersey's because.... Also in basketball there would be more people cut because...). As a result, sentences tend to be mechanical and lack rhythm.

Conventions**Score Point: 3**

In this response, usage and spelling are generally correct. Paragraphing is attempted. There is some random capitalization within sentences (Basketball, Football) and there are unnecessary apostrophes (jersey's, shirt's, boy's). Punctuation is generally correct, although there are errors (In Football since everyone makes the team you would have to have more than one bus to carry the whole team). Consequently, the writer shows reasonable control over a limited range of conventions.

Student Response 8

Athletic Teams
03UT09WR_A-8

No matter what gender you are, you should be allowed to all sports. If someone is not allowed to play a sport because of their gender that is being just plain sexist.

Not just some girls a lot of girls want to play football, but there is not a girls football team. The same with wrestling! Girls want to wrestl, but the closets they get is being a manager. Is it because they are afraid girls will get hurt! Well guys do and they just tough it out girls can do the same thing. Tennis for boys sound just fine, but are there any guy teams? No, some guys are great at tennis. Theres even profesional guy. Is the school to lazy? If so then mix boys and girls so if there is no boys who cares, but there probably will be.

Guys and girls should be allowed to all sports. Two of my friends are girls that want to play football and my brother loves tennis but there was no tennis team when he was in highschool. There is my proof. Know you know how I fell and I hope you fell the same now.



18030

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Ideas and Content

Score Point: 3

This writer states his/her opinion (No matter what gender you are, you should be allowed to all sports) and indirectly acknowledges other opinions (Is it because they are afraid girls will get hurt!). The writer attempts elaboration (Girls want to wreslt, but the closets they get is being a manager. Is it because they are afraid girls will get hurt! Well guys do and they just tough it out girls can do the same thing). However, support for other ideas is limited and somewhat repetitious (Not just some girls a lot of girls want to play football...Tennis for boys sound just fine, but are there any guy teams? No, some guys are great at tennis...Two of my friends are girls that want to play football and my brother loves tennis but there was no tennis team when he was in highschool).

Organization

Score Point: 3

This response has a recognizable introduction (No matter what gender you are, you should be allowed to all sports) and a brief conclusion (There is my proof. Know you know how I fell and I hope you fell the same now). Sometimes transitions work (...but there is not a girls football team. The same with wreslting! Girls want to wreslt, but the closets they get is being a manager); other times, connections between ideas seem forced (...girls can do the same thing. Tennis for boys sounds just fine, but are there any guy teams?). Further, placement or relevance of details is sometimes confusing (Is it because they are afraid girls will get hurt! Well guys do and they just tough it out girls can do the same thing. Tennis for boys sound just fine, but are there any guy teams? No, some guys are great at tennis. Theres even profesional guy. Is the school to lazy?). Despite problems, however, the organization does not seriously get in the way of the main idea.

Voice

Score Point: 4

This writer seems genuine and is generally involved in the topic (If someone is not allowed to play a sport because of their gender that is being just plain sexsit). The writer directly addresses the audience (Is it because they are afraid girls will get hurt!... but are there any guy teams?... Know you know how I fell and I hope you fell the same now). Consequently, the reader begins to sense the person behind the words.

Word Choice

Score Point: 3

In this response, the language is ordinary and functional (Tennis for boys sound just fine, but are there any guy teams? Theres even profesional guy. Is the school to lazy?). Although the language communicates, it rarely captures the reader's imagination (Not just some girls a lot of girls want to play football, but there is not a girls football team. The same with wreslting! Girls want to wreslt, but the closets they get is being a manager...). The result is a generic paper filled with familiar words and phrases.

Sentence Fluency

Score Point: 3

Sentences in this response sometimes vary in structure and length (Not just some girls a lot of girls want to play football, but there is not a girls football team. The same with wreslting!). However, awkward sentence construction (Theres even profesional guy. Is the school to lazy? If so then mix boys and girls so if there is no boys who cares but there probably will be) sometimes forces the reader to slow down. Thus, sentences tend to lack rhythm.

Conventions**Score Point: 3**

This writer shows reasonable control over a very limited range of conventions. Terminal punctuation is generally correct, although there are a few errors (Is it because they are afraid girls will get hurt! Well guys do and they just tough it out girls can do the same thing). Errors in spelling appear (sexsit, closets, to for too, Know for now, fell for feel). Errors in usage (Tennis for boys sound just fine... if there is no boys who cares...) do not distort meaning. Consequently, errors tend to be distracting but do not block meaning.

Student Response 9

PE Requirements
03UT09WR_A-9

Dear counselor,

I think Physical Education should be required every year for graduation.

My first reason for taking P.E. is that it teaches you lessons in life for example taking losses easier and being more of a team player rather than an independent person. It could help us out in future situations.

Taking physical Education also helps the kids that are and aren't in shape. It helps kids to learn easy and efficient ways to stay in shape and eat healthy. Making wise decisions on how to live your life and be happy and feel good about yourself.

My third and final reason is that taking P.E. helps kids not slack off and be lazy. Some kids just want to be lazy and not take the extra effort to do something that will be good for them in the end. P.E. is a break from normally hard schoolwork. And if you try your hardest you'll automatically pass, so there's no excuse not to take physical education. It's better for everyone.

In conclusion I think it should be mandatory for kids to take Physical Education to graduate for my reasons. Please take my suggestion into consideration. Thanks!

Sincerely,

A concerned student.



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

00622

Ideas and Content

Score Point: 4

This response is focused and persuasive. The writer expresses his/her opinion, the main idea (I think Physical Education should be required every year for graduation).

Throughout the text, there is elaboration in the form of supporting reasons that move from general observations to specific points (My first reason for taking P.E. is that it teaches you lessons in life for example taking losses easier and being more of a team player rather than an independant person. It could help us out in future situations). The writer indirectly acknowledges other opinions on the subject (Some kids just want to be lazy and not take the extra effort to do something that will be good for them in the end).

Organization

Score Point: 4

This response has an overall structure that moves the reader through the text. There is a functional introduction (I think Physical Education should be required every year for graduation) and a conclusion (In conclusion, I think it should be manditory for kids to take Physical graduation to graduate...). Placement of details is generally clear, and transitions are appropriate (My first reason for taking... Taking physical education also helps... My third and final reason is...).

Voice

Score Point: 4

The writer is genuine and is generally involved in the topic (My first reason for taking P.E. is that it teaches you lessons in life...). The writer directly addresses the audience, using the appropriate tone (In conclusion I think it should be manditory for kids to take Physical graduation to graduate for my reasons. Please take my suggestion into consideration. Thanks!). Consequently, the reader begins to get a sense of the person behind the words.

Word Choice

Score Point: 3

In this response, the language is ordinary, but it does convey the meaning. While the overall meaning is quite clear, some words and phrases lack precision (It could help us out in future situations... how to live your life and be happy and feel good about yourself... It's better for everyone).

Sentence Fluency

Score Point: 4

In this response, the writer shows control of both simple and complex syntax (P.E. is a break from normal, hard, schoolwork. And if you try your hardest you'll automatically pass, so there's no excuse not to take physical education). Further, the sentences typically vary in length and structure. The single fragment in the response seems deliberate (Making wise decisions on how to live your life and be happy and feel good about yourself). Thus, the writing has some rhythm that flows throughout the text.

Conventions

Score Point: 4

The writer of this response demonstrates an overall grasp of standard writing conventions, though the writing is not especially complex. Usage is generally correct and there is paragraphing. While there is a missing apostrophe (arent), others are done correctly. Spelling errors are minor (then instead of than). Terminal punctuation is correct, and some internal punctuation is used (P.E. is a break from normal, hard,

schoolwork. And if you try your hardest you'll automatically pass, so there's no excuse ...).

Student Response 10

Athletic Teams
03UT09WR_A-10

Being on an athletic team can be a fun and a great experience. So why let gender limit what an athlete can do? Students should be allowed to try out for any team, male or female.

If an athlete has the same, or even better skills as the members of the opposite sex, there's no reason why they can't play. For example, people thought that women can't play basketball as well as men. Yet, the WNBA was formed and it proved the people wrong.

In a way, having one-gender-only-teams are racial. It's saying that only this type of gender can play the sport. Men and women interact with each other everyday. So why not in sports?

Often times, people limit another person's ability. Women can't throw a football as well as men, or men can't swim as well or fast as girls. But until one tries, and finds out what one can do, then they'll never

● 17A

figure out their ability.

Maybe the reason why there are not as many co-ed teams, is because the treatment and competitiveness will increase. They might not play girls as much as guys, or the guys might be upset if a girl was a better player.

Having co-ed teams are nothing new. Boys and girls have been playing together since they were children. Males and females can both have the opportunity to be a part of a team and co-ed teams can help.

15625

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Student Response 11

Athletic Teams
03UT09WR_A-11

Right now, in most schools, sport teams are not coed. There is a girls' basketball team and a boys' basketball team. Most of the time girls are not allowed to play football or wrestle. Now, the question is "should the teams be coed?" I think students, no matter what gender they are, should be allowed to try out for any team they want.

First of all it is against the law to turn someone down because of their gender. Work places are not allowed to discriminate anyone for their gender; why should schools be allowed to? Students have every right to be on whatever team they want to be on.

Another thing is that it is the student's choice. It is what they want to do. I don't think it's fair that a girl is not allowed to play football. Maybe that has always been her dream. She may not be able to take it, but she should at least be given the chance to try.

There will most likely be problems, but most things in life come with problems. I don't think anyone should be given special treatment. If they are eligible to play and they have the talent, they should be allowed to play. Whether it be a boy or a girl.

One of the problems that might come up is you are giving boys and girls more interaction. I don't think that is too big of a problem. I don't think girls or guys

● 18A

are going to join a team just to be around the opposite sex more. That might be the reason for some of them, but I don't think it would be for the majority of students. Even if it were the reason, the students probably not be able to handle the pressure or have the talent so there would be no need to worry about it.

Students need to learn that neither boys or girls are altogether better than the other. Sure one may be better than the other at something but they should all be given the chance to try to accomplish their dreams. That is why I think students should be given the choice to join the teams they want to join.

08205

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Ideas and Content

Score Point: 4

This response is clear, focused, and persuasive. The writer expresses his/her opinion, the main idea (I think students, no matter what gender they are, should be allowed to try out for any team they want), in a somewhat convincing way, by providing supporting reasons that move from general observation to specific points (Another thing is that it is the student's choice. It is what they want to do. I don't think it's fair that a girl is not allowed to play football. Maybe that has always been her dream. She may not be able to take it, but she should at least be given the chance to try). The writer acknowledges other opinions on the subject (One of the problems that might come up is you are giving boys and girls more interaction). Thus, the writer seems to be in control and has sufficiently defined the topic.

Organization

Score Point: 4

This response has an overall structure that moves the reader through the text. There is a functional introduction (Right now, in most schools, sports teams are not coed. There is a girls' basketball team and a boys' basketball team. Most of the girls are not allowed to play football or wrestle. Now, the question is "should the teams be coed?" I think students, no matter what gender they are, should be allowed to tryout for any team they want) and a functional conclusion (Students need to learn that neither boys or girls are altogether better than the other...That is why I think students should be given the choice to join the teams they want to join) that are relevant to the main idea. Details are well-placed and relevant to the main idea, and transitions work well (First of all it is against the law to turn someone down because of their gender...One of the problems that might come up is you are giving boys and girls more interaction).

Voice

Score Point: 4

The writer is genuine and is generally involved in the topic (I don't think it's fair that a girl is not allowed to play football. Maybe that has always been her dream. She may not be able to take it, but she should at least be given the chance to try). There is evidence that the writer addresses the audience (Now, the question is "should the teams be coed?" Work places are not allowed to discriminate against anyone for their gender, why should schools be allowed to?). Consequently, the reader gets a sense of the person behind the words.

Word Choice

Score Point: 4

In this response, the writing is clear and easy to interpret. The writer uses words to convey the message in a realistic and reasonable way (I don't think anyone should be given special treatment. If they are eligible to play and they have the talent, they should be allowed to play). Thus, the writer's choice of words is correct, but rarely striking.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 4**

Generally, sentences in this response are well-crafted (Now, the question is "should the teams be coed?" I think students, no matter what gender they are, should be allowed to try out for any team they want) and vary in structure and length (There will most likely be problems, but most things in life come with problems. I don't think anyone should be given special treatment. If they are eligible to play and they have the talent, they should be allowed to play). A fragment works well (Whether it be a boy or a girl). Consequently, the writing has some rhythm that flows throughout the text.

Conventions**Score Point: 5**

Punctuation is generally smooth, so it guides the reader through the text (Right now, in most schools, sport teams are not coed. There is a girls' basketball team and a boys' basketball team... Now, the question is "should the teams be coed?" I think students, no matter what gender they are, should be allowed to try out for any team they want). Usage contributes to clarity. Errors are few and minor. Thus, the writer demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions and uses them to enhance readability.

Athletic Teams
03UT09WR_A-12

Little girls dream of going to dances, having children, and meeting "prince charming." This is what many have felt was proper behavior for a young girl but something... change. Although female liberation was officially thirty years ago, it doesn't mean everything is now equal. One of the areas of modern life that is vulgarly unequal is sports. In recent years, more and more female professional sports leagues and athletic programs have popped up, and this was applauded, as long as it was girl vs. girl only. What has happened when the question of girl vs. boy comes up, however, the applause quickly fades away.

The problem with all of this is that, in today's world, women should be able to compete with men. US women have been competing with men in the business world for years now so why should competing on the court or baseball field be any different. It has been argued by many that women can't build up as much muscle as men, yet there are many examples to the contrary. A major star of the wrestling world, China, is female, along with one of the biggest stars of tennis, Billy Jean King. Maybe the reason that we don't have more examples like this is just the lack of opportunities for women to truly compete head on with men, just like China and Billy have.

A very popular reason women shouldn't be competing with men, volunteered by many individuals, is that a man losing to a woman can severely harm his self-esteem. Why is it we must worry about a man's self-esteem before a woman's self-esteem? In my opinion, more men need to realize that women are truly there.

16229

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

equals even on the playing field. Although such a change would be difficult for most men to accept at first, in the end we would all probably be better for it.

As far as professional sports and equal male, female competition, you do have to take into consideration some factors. Men generally are bigger and so a woman playing football in the NFL would be a little unreasonable. But as I pointed out earlier, there are a few women that can and so why not let those few try.

It is probably true the majority of women don't want to be playing in sports heavily or professionally, but it isn't fair to make the few who do suffer because of that. On the upside, if all teams were boy-girl combined then we wouldn't have to be spending money for both boy and girl teams and thus there would be more money to go around. This is something that would be especially helpful in schools, where money is often spread to thin anyway and where most athletics teams are conducted.

The bottom line to all of this is women aren't asking for exceptions, just a chance to be equal. I think it's a sad day in America when we are preventing people from being equal.

Ideas and Content

Score Point: 5

This response is clear, focused, and persuasive. The writer expresses his/her opinion, the main idea (One of the areas of modern life that is vulgarly unequal is sports), in a convincing manner, by providing ample elaboration that develops the topic in an enlightening and entertaining way (A very popular reason women shouldn't be competing with men, volunteered by many individuals, is that a man losing to a woman can severely harm his self-esteem. Why is it we must worry about a man's self-esteem before a woman's self-esteem? In my opinion, more men need to realize that women are truly there equals even on the playing field. Although such a change would be difficult for most men to except at first, in the end we would all probably be better for it). The writer acknowledges other opinions on the subject (It has been argued by many that women can't build up as much muscle as men, yet there are many examples to the contrary... A very popular reason women shouldn't be competing with men, volunteered by many individuals, is that a man losing to a woman can severely harm his self-esteem). The writer seems to be in control and the writing has balance.

Organization

Score Point: 5

This response exhibits an overall structure that showcases the main idea and moves the reader nicely through the text. The response begins with an inviting introduction (Little girls dream of going to dances, having children, and meeting "prince charming." This is what many have felt was proper behavior for a young girl but something change...) and is completed by a satisfying conclusion (...women aren't asking for exceptions, just a chance to be equal. I think its a sad day in America when we are preventing people from being equal). Transitions are smooth (The problem with all of this is... As far as professional sports and equal male, female competition...). Details fit where they are placed (It has been argued by many that women can't build up as much muscle as men, yet there are many examples to the contrary. A major star of the wrestling world, China, is female, along with one of the biggest stars of tennis, Billy Jean King. Maybe the reason that we don't have more examples of this is just the lack of opportunities for women to truly compete head on with men, just has China and Billy have).

Voice

Score Point: 5

In this response, the writer speaks directly to the audience (Why is it we must worry about a man's self-esteem before a woman's self-esteem?). The response has the ring of conviction and uses language that brings the topic to life (The bottom line to all of this is women aren't asking for exceptions, just a chance to be equal. I think its a sad day in America when we are preventing people from being equal). Clearly, the writer is involved in the topic and is writing to be read.

Word Choice

Score Point: 5

This writing is full and rich, yet concise. Words are specific and accurate (In recent years, more and more female professional sports leagues and athletic programs have popped up, and this was applauded, as long as it was girl vs. girl only...It has been argued by many that women can't build up as much muscle as men, yet there are many examples to the contrary). Thus, the vocabulary is striking and natural.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 5**

In this response, sentences are consistently well-crafted with a varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable (Why is it we must worry about a man's self-esteem before a women's self-esteem? In my opinion, more men need to realize that women are truly their equals even on the playing field. Although such a change would be difficult for most men to accept at first, in the end we would all probably be better for it). Thus, the writing sounds natural and fluent.

Conventions**Score Point: 4**

This writer demonstrates an overall grasp of standard writing conventions and generally uses them to enhance readability. Punctuation is generally correct, and paragraphing is demonstrated. However, there are errors in usage (but something change, Us women, a women) and spelling (price charming, muscle, truly, losing, there for their, to for too). Apostrophes are sometimes missing (today's world, it's a sad day).

Dear Counselor,

I believe that physical education should not be a graduation requirement. True, it does help to keep students healthy and fit, but I think that the disadvantages of physical education outweigh that one advantage. It penalizes those students who are not so athletic, and doesn't really help prepare students for life. If you make physical education an elective rather than a required class, it will be better for all the students.

My first reason is that this class isn't as much of an asset to students' physical fitness as many people think it is. If the student wishes to be healthy and fit, they will find time after school or take physical education as an elective anyway. Forcing all the students to take this class is keeping those more scholarly than athletic from taking classes that will benefit their life in much better ways. Keeping physical education as a required class is taking away a lot of other opportunities and choices that a student could make.

Another reason why physical education should not be a required class is that it penalizes the less athletic students. It forces them to endure a boring and difficult class that keeps them from other classes they would like to take. Most of those



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

01169

students will not benefit from this class in their chosen careers anyway. It also lowers weaker students' self-esteem to be so humiliated in front of their peers. If you make physical education an elective, the students who would benefit from the class will take it, while those who wouldn't benefit from it could have the opportunity to take other classes.

My third and final reason why physical education should not be required is that this class doesn't help prepare most students for life. Today's careers are heading more toward computers and technical jobs and away from physical labor. The only students who will benefit from physical education are those who are interested in sports, and they would take this class anyway if it was offered as an elective. If you make this class an elective, the students who need it will take it, and you will not be forcing this class on those who won't use it.

In conclusion, I definitely believe that you should not keep physical education as a required class. It is not useful, lowers students' self-esteem, and becoming more and more obsolete as the years go by. There is no disadvantage for this class being made an elective, and no reason why you shouldn't make it not required for graduation.

Ideas and Content

Score Point: 5

This paper is clear, focused, and persuasive. The writer expresses his/her opinion, the main idea, in a convincing way (I believe that physical education should not be a graduation requirement). The main idea is developed with ample supporting details that are elaborated throughout the response (... it penalizes the less athletic students. It forces them to endure a boring and difficult class that keeps them from other classes they would like to take... It also lowers weaker students' self-esteem to be so humiliated in front of their peers). The writer acknowledges other opinions about the subject (True, it does help to keep students healthy and fit... this class isn't as much of an asset to students' physical fitness as many people think it is).

Organization

Score Point: 5

This response exhibits an overall structure that enhances the main idea and moves the reader nicely through the text. There is an introduction (I believe that physical education should not be a graduation requirement...) that draws the reader in. The response is completed by the conclusion (In conclusion, I definitely believe that you should not keep physical education as a required class...). Details fit where they are placed and transitions are smooth (If you make physical education an elective... Forcing all the students... Another reason...).

Voice

Score Point: 5

In this response, the writer speaks directly to the audience (If you make physical education an elective rather than a required class, it will be better for all the students... In conclusion, I definitely believe that you should not keep physical education as a required class). The response has the ring of conviction and uses language that brings the topic to life (True, it does help to keep students healthy and fit, but I think that the disadvantages of physical education outweigh that one advantage... Forcing all the students to take this class is keeping those more scholarly than athletic from taking classes that will benefit their life in much better ways). Thus, it is clear that the writer is involved in the topic and is writing to be read.

Word Choice

Score Point: 5

In this response, words are specific and accurate (It forces them to endure a boring and difficult class... It also lowers weaker students' self-esteem to be so humiliated in front of their peers... Today's careers are heading more toward computers and technical jobs and away from physical labor). Verbs are often powerful or striking (If the student wishes... benefit their life... It forces them to endure... careers are heading...). Consequently, words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way.

Sentence Fluency

Score Point: 5

In this response, sentences are consistently well-crafted and varied in structure (I believe that physical education should not be a graduation requirement. True, it does help to keep students healthy and fit, but I think that the disadvantages of physical education outweigh that one advantage). Thus, the writing sounds natural and fluent.

Conventions**Score Point: 5**

The writer of this response demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions and uses them to enhance readability. Errors are so few and minor that the reader can easily skim right over them. In addition, punctuation is smooth and guides the reader through the text (True, it does help to keep students healthy and fit, but I think that the disadvantages of physical education outway the one advantage... If you make physical education an elective rather than a required class, it will be better for the students... It also lowers weaker students' self-esteem...).